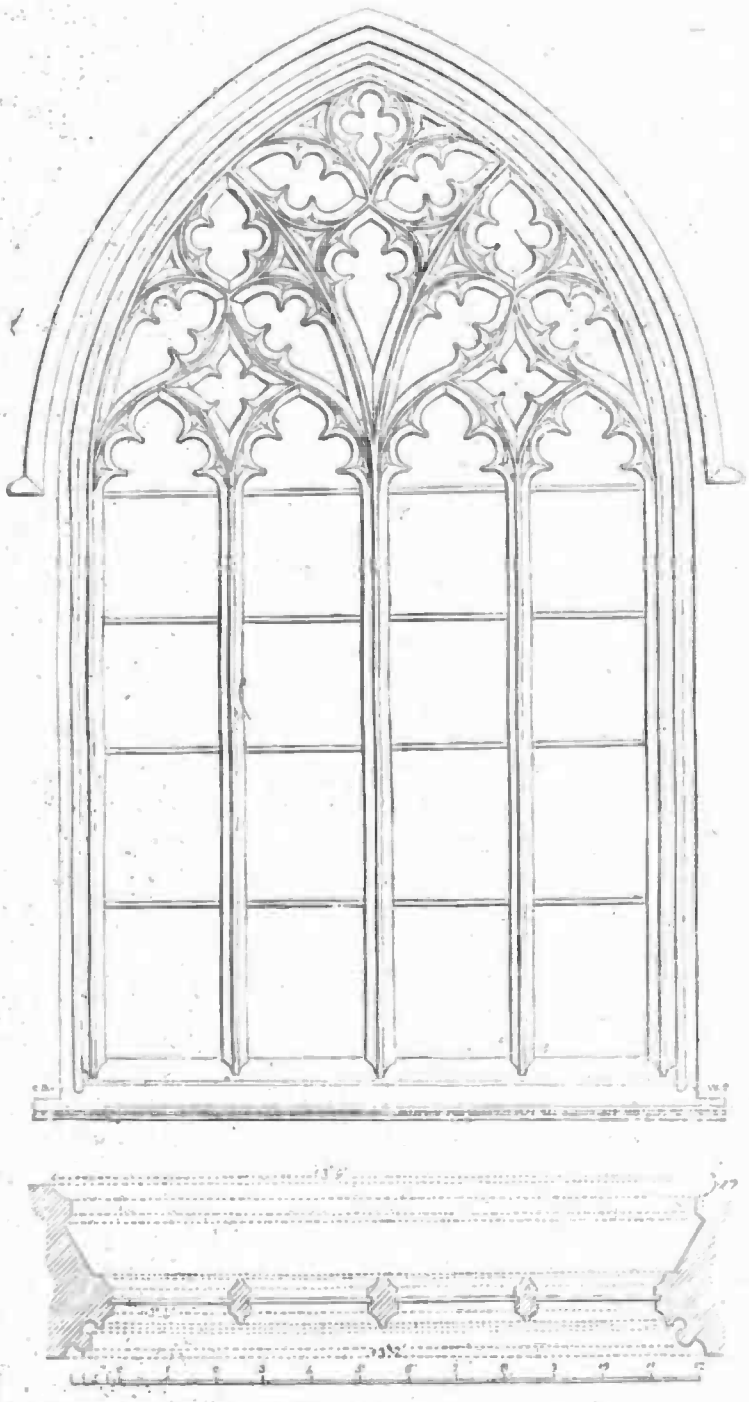
WINDOW IN AISLE, DUTCH CHURCH, AUSTIN FRIARS.



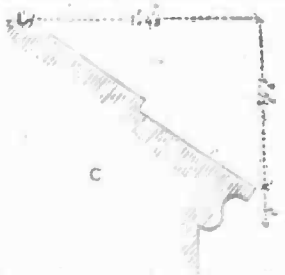
Plan of Window.

GOTHIC DETAILS FROM THE DUTCH CHURCH, AUSTIN FRIARS.

In the second volume of THE BUILDER, at page 9 and page 348, there is a general account of the Dutch Church in Austin Friars, so far as relates to its history, with views of the west end and interior. It is a part of the ancient Priory of St. Augustine, the chief residence of the friars of that order in England,* whence the name of the place. After the dissolution of the monastic orders, the Priory of St. Augustine fell into various hands: the west end of the conventual church was granted for the use of the Germans and other fugitive Protestants, and the remainder was appropriated to meaner purposes. The steeple was standing in the year 1609, and seems to have been held in great esteem, if we may judge from the words of a memorial from the lord mayor and citizens, praying the Marquis of Winchester, the owner, to repair it.† The memorial said: "The fall of it, which without speedy prevention is near at hand, must needs bring with it not only a great deformitie to the whole city, it being for architecture one of the beautifullest and rarest spectacles thereof, but also a fearful eminent danger to all the inhabitants next adjoining." Fifty or sixty pounds, it was shewn, would have preserved the structure, but the request was refused, and as the citizens had not the spirit to repair it themselves, the steeple was demolished.

The present church is a spacious structure divided into three compartments (nave and aisles) by two ranges of pillars and pointed arches, as stated more at length in page 348, and is lighted by a series of large windows on each side: one of which, and they are all alike, is represented by the accompanying plan, elevation, and sections, carefully mea-

sured and drawn by Mr. Caveler. A is a section of the reveal, B of the label-moulding,



and C of the cill. The tracery of the window is not uncommon in works of the 14th century; one example may be seen in Worstead Church, Norfolk, figured in the "Oxford Glossary."

In the following number we shall give similar drawings of the large west window. We propose to refer hereafter to these and other details (which we shall furnish from time to time) in illustration of a connected series of papers on the history of Gothic architecture and the characteristics of works of different periods.

TABLE OF CREDENCE.

The credence was a small table by the side of the altar on which the bread and wine were placed before consecration. There is a good specimen in the church of St. Cross, near Winchester. Sometimes its place was supplied by a shelf in the niche above the piscina. In reply to a correspondent, who inquires the origin of the term, we give the following:—

It was once the office of a servant called the prægustator, to taste every dish before it was placed on the dinner-table, in order both that the cookery might be tested, and all fear of poison removed from the guests. (See "Facciolati's Lexicon."—Prægustator.) He who did this was said by the Italians *far la credenza*, and thus credenza or credentia came in time to mean the side table on which this process was performed, and afterwards was applied to any side table, such as were those on which the elements were placed previous to their being carried to the altar. (See Ducange, ver. "Credentia.")

* Founded by Humfrey de Bohun, Earl of Hereford and Essex, 1253, and re-edified in the year 1351, by his descendant [illegible]

† The previous Marquis of Winchester built a mansion on the site of the monastery called Winchester-place. In Winchester-street there are still many of the overhanging houses with arches towards the road, which were at one time [illegible]